



## From the Editor

Five Weeks until FIELD DAY 2014 . This month's 4th Wednesday Workshop will entail training in the use of the HF stations and familiarization with the logging programs we'll be using during the event.

Our May issue of The Logger's Bark features a large pictorial section. Not only are photos provided to help members identify the various antennae at the clubhouse, but several pages are dedicated to the intrepid crew that diagnosed and repaired the problem with the rotor on the main tower.

The club has a new Membership Committee manager and he is going to be a dandy addition to the club cadre of workers. Please give a big Thank You to George K7GRS. He's taken the reins and has already developed a new interactive membership search tool for the club website.

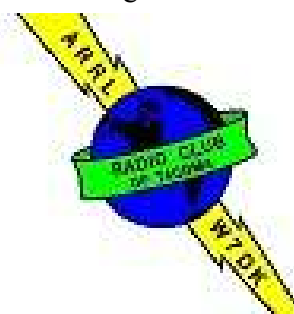
And our Secretary Larry KD4VOM deserves a room full of commendations for his years of managing the club's membership program, on top of every thing else he has on his plate.

**HELP [STILL] WANTED** - The Radio Club of Tacoma is still in need of two volunteers.. We need a program manager to coordinate the entertainment portion of each monthly meeting held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, usually at the Pierce County Library facility. We also need someone to handle refreshments for each of those meetings. Taking time to make coffee and bringing a couple packages of cookies or other snacks would be a valued contribution to the well-being of the club members.

That's all folks - 73 de Mike W7MWF

### W7DK

**Proudly celebrating 97  
years of service to  
Amateur Radio in the  
Pacific Northwest**



### In This Month's Issue

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**Board of Directors Meeting  
2 April 2014**

The 2 April 2014 Radio Club of Tacoma Board meeting was held at the Radio Club of Tacoma.

Officers and board members present:

Vice President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Secretary	Larry Watson KD4VOM
Treasurer	Bob Purdom AD7LJ
Board Member	Mike Finnie W7MWF
Board Member	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board Member	Mike Elwell W7GHW

*There were 11 names on the attendance roster which is attached to the original copy of these minutes*

**Quorum:** Yes

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by Vice President Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ.

**Minutes:**

**A motion to approve the minutes of the 5 March 2014 Board Meeting as coordinated was made, seconded and passed.**

**HEALTH AND WELFARE:** Treasurer Bob Purdom AD7LJ is recovering from recent surgery

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

Bank Statements	Utility and Phone Bills
Newsletters	QEX Journal
Contest Journal	Memberships
Workshop Survey responses	

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Bob AD7LJ provided financial reports for February and March.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Membership:**

Membership renewals are underway; thus far, not counting Lifetime and Honorary, about 240 members have renewed their memberships

George K7CRS, Randy WB4SBP, Mike W7MWF and Larry KD4VOM are working on the transition which will likely occur following the publication of this year's annual Membership Roster Book in April. In the meantime work is underway to migrate the membership excel database (which is cumbersome and error prone) to a relational database, in our case, Microsoft Access.

**Training:**

**Next Technician Class April 5/6**

**Possible General/Extra Class:** The question was raised on if or when the RCT would present a General or Extra Class training session. We know that Stephen AD7AV was collecting names of interested students and teachers. Not sure what happened to that effort.

**Information Technology:**– Randy Myers WB4SBP

Randy provided an informal Information Technology report which addressed a possible IRLP issue. It seems recently our repeater has been occasionally linked to an intertie/networked system, usually late in the evening around 11pm. On one occasion the link remained until the following morning.

Does the RCT wish to continue accepting these kinds of connectivity, or put in place a method to control/prohibit this kind of use.

The question also raises the issue of the age and capabilities of the existing IRLP computer and associated hardware and software.

After discussion, the Board asked the IT and Repeater Committees to investigate the issue and prepare a report for the next Board meeting outlining the current hardware and software capabilities and limitations, together with recommendations and options (hardware, software and operational policy) for future development of the Club's IRLP capabilities.

**HF Operations:**

**The Club's Beam Antenna Rotor: Bruce W7EP**

Bruce advises that the rotor has been repaired by Bob Abernethy W7BA and will be returned to service based on weather and availability of a tower climber.

**HF Room Patch Panel Project:** Al N7OMS reported on the availability of existing connectors and parts. He also reported on technical research indicating some concern over using N1 connectors using high power. N7OMS suggested that \$ 75.00 and help from Jim KE7PVZ to prepare the connector base plates will be required to proceed. ***A motion was made, seconded and passed to authorize up to \$ 100.00 to purchase parts needed for completing the RCT patch panel project.***

**RCT Repeater Status:**

**Tim K7TMW** reported that all repeater coordination certificates have been renewed and that they all have concurrent expiration dates. Tim also reported that all repeaters are operational.

**Facilities Management:**

**Clubhouse Back Door Replacement: Bruce WE7P** reported that Mike Buettner K7STO has acquired the door and hardware to install a new metal back door at the clubhouse. Work is scheduled for 18 April 2014

**RCT riding lawnmower: Bruce WE7P** noted that the mower has multiple issues including throwing belts after about 3 uses. He and others recommend we dispose of the mower.

**Mike W7MWF** advised that he is planning to handle the yard mowing duties this year, which should provide time for the Board to make a decision on any possible future equipment.

**Following discussion the Board turned the mower over to the Property Manager for disposition.**

**Property Management:****No Report****Museum: Rich KR7W****No Report****UNFINISHED BUSINESS:****Workshop Project**

The February 26<sup>th</sup> Workshop session, repeated the January 22<sup>nd</sup> workshops to afford those who wished to attend both sessions an opportunity to do so. Stan K7DKK presented the Repeater Orientation, while Bruce WE7P provided the Club HF Station Orientation. Both sessions were well attended.

Mike W7MWF has developed a spreadsheet indicating the relative interest against the Survey topics.

Next step is to solicit presenter support. An email will be sent to those who may be interested in making topic presentations.

**BARK Newsletter Mailings:**

The current BARK mailing will include the notice to recipients of the Club's decision to end the costly Bark

mailing program in favor of downloading from the internet.

A few copies will be provided at club meetings and offers at the Clubhouse to provide tutorials using the Club's computer, internet access and printers to teach members how to download the BARK using the Internet and W7DK.org website.

**Meeting Program Coordinator:**

**Larry KD4VOM** reminded the Board that **Frank AC7JY** has retired from the task of providing programs for the General Membership Meetings, and we need to find someone to take over this important task.

**NEW BUSINESS:****DISCUSSION TOPICS:****Field Day: Mike W7GHW**

Field Day planning is underway. Several advised that time is running out to complete the planning, and recommended Mike present a status report and solicit needed volunteers at the next General Membership meeting. Field Day for W7DK will be at the Clubhouse this year.

A Field Day Planning meeting is needed, and the group recommended using the Club's fourth Wednesday Workshop as a Field Day planning meeting. Mike agreed so April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Clubhouse at 7 pm will be Field Day planning meeting, to include any potential group wishing to go to the field using the W7OS call sign.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**SEAPAC ARRL Convention**, 6-8 June, Seaside Oregon

The meeting was adjourned at 20:09

**The RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA needs your donations...**

**DONATIONS PLAY A BIG PART IN FUNDING THE OPERATION OF RCT. IF YOU HAVE UNWANTED OR UNNEEDED AMATEUR RADIO OR RELATED EQUIPMENT. PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING IT TO THE CLUB**

If you have something to donate Contact Frank Palmer AC7JY, Property Management Team Leader

**General Membership Meeting**  
**9 April 2014 Notes**

The 9 April 2014 General Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building at Waller Road and 112<sup>th</sup> Street. .

President Gary McAdams WG7X called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Officers and board members present:

President	Gary McAdams WG7X
Vice President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Secretary	Larry Watson KD4VOM
Treasurer	Bob Purdom AD7LJ
Board	Mike Elwell W7GHW
Board	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board	Mike Finnie W7MWF

*A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached to the original copy of these minutes. There were 39 names on the attendance roster.*

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Was led by President Gary WG7X

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Guest welcoming and self-introductions were completed. Special guest, Presenter Jim Huckabay KF7ALO and XYL Diane W7IJD were warmly welcomed

**ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY:** Larry KD4VOM reports that Harry W7HSA is in an assisted living facility. Al K7HW is recovering at home from a broken leg bone. Greta KF7KSW reported the Charles Rupert KA7GAP, has returned home from a stay in an assisted living facility.

**Correspondence:**

Newsletters  
Utility Bills  
Bank Statements  
Membership Renewals  
Newsletters and Journals

The Field Day Pig was circulated to collect donations for Field Day operations.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Membership:** The grace period for membership renewal has expired. You can still renew, but won't make it to this year's membership Roster Booklet.

**VE REPORT:** Leonard Burstiner KA7NWF presented John Clarke AC7WW's VE report.

The Volunteer Examiners of the Radio Club of Tacoma almost had a full house Tuesday April 8th 2014. Thirty-five elements completed by nineteen candidates were graded. Eight new Technician class amateurs joined the service, one candidate returned to the hobby by passing element 2 and grandfathered to element 3 to become a General. A candidate passed all three elements to become an Extra Class Operator. Three candidates passed element 2 and 3 joining as Generals. Two candidates upgraded to General and three candidates upgraded to Extra. One candidate failed to earn an initial license.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and effort.

Joe, W7RQ	Leonard, KA7NWF
Jan, K7HTU	Jim, N7RHX
Stephen, AD7AB	Pete, KF7HYO

The next monthly scheduled testing session will be Tuesday May 13, 2014.

**HF Station:** The Club HF Stations main beam antenna rotor has been repaired and will be returned to service soon.

**Facilities:** Mike Buettner K7STO has agreed to replace the clubhouse back door with a larger metal one. He has most of the materials and has scheduled the work for Friday, 18 April.

**PROGRAMS:**

**The Cascade Crest 100 mile run – Jim Huckabay KF7ALO**

Jim presented a great overview of this year's Pacific Crest 100 mile run which will be held on August 23d and 24<sup>th</sup>. He solicited interested parties to assist as hams at some of the run stations, or just come and join the fun. Check out the event at: <http://www.cascadecrest100.com> If interested please contact Jim at: [huckabay@cwu.edu](mailto:huckabay@cwu.edu)

**Field Day: Mike W7GHW** – presented an overview of plans for this year's Field Day which will be held at the Clubhouse site. Mike needs volunteers for all the tasks, setup, operating and teardown. Mike circulated signup sheets and intends to schedule a planning meeting soon.

**Washington State Emergency Operations –OSO  
Mudslide Support – Bob Purdom AC7LJ**

Bob presented an overview of the stand up and support operations to the OSO mud slide by the Washington State Emergency Operations Center, including an unusual use of telephone numbers to assist in identifying the locations of possible victims as well as elimination of those who were not victims of the slide.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:****RCT Workshop Meetings:**

The Club's workshop program on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 7 pm at the Clubhouse is running well. There is a possibility that this month's workshop will be a planning meeting for Field Day, but in any event there will be a program.

**Meeting Refreshments:** Leonard KA7NWF has agreed to bring the coffee pots and gear to the meet-

ings, but if we are to have coffee and snacks, we need someone to arrange for the coffee, snacks and setup. If interested contact Mike W7XTZ, or one of the Club Officers

**DISCUSSION TOPICS:**

**SEAPAC ARRL Convention:** This annual convention is held at Seaside Oregon and this year on June 6 through 8.

**SHOW AND TELL:** None Reported

**TUNING AND TRAFFIC:** None Reported

**DOOR PRIZES:** Yvonne Galati KD7UYK took home a set of small tools including screwdrivers, tape measure and wire stripper/cutter.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm

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## The W7DK Antenna Farm

Often-asked questions at the W7DK Clubhouse on Saturday mornings are

“What is that antenna for?”

“How high is the tower?”

“What kind of antenna is that?”

Some time ago, KR7W and I took a few photos of the array of antennas at our facility. Hopefully, I've labeled them correctly.

As you browse through the next couple of pages, you can see the various bands which can be covered from the stations located both up and downstairs in the clubhouse. And we owe a “Thank You” to the members of the club who pitch in and help with maintenance, repairs, and installation of this equipment.



## Mark Your Calendars!

June 27-29 at the Clubhouse

2014 ARRL Field Day  
Setup Friday  
On the air Saturday & Sunday  
Teardown on Sunday









To the left, the VHF/UHF Array. Photo courtesy KR7W from an altitude of about 80 feet above ground level.



On the right is part of the pulley system to raise and lower a dipole

Below is a good view of the balun on the 40 meter dipole



Below, KR7W in Maintenance Mode





## The Great 2014 Rotor Rebuild Project

During mid-January, club members observed the tri-bander Yagi spinning like a top during one of our little windstorms. Realizing the severity of the situation, a small group gathered to provide ground support to KR7W as he scrambled up the 80 foot tower to belay the beam with a stout rope to prevent further damage. While atop the tower, he removed the broken rotor and lowered it to the ground team for inspection.

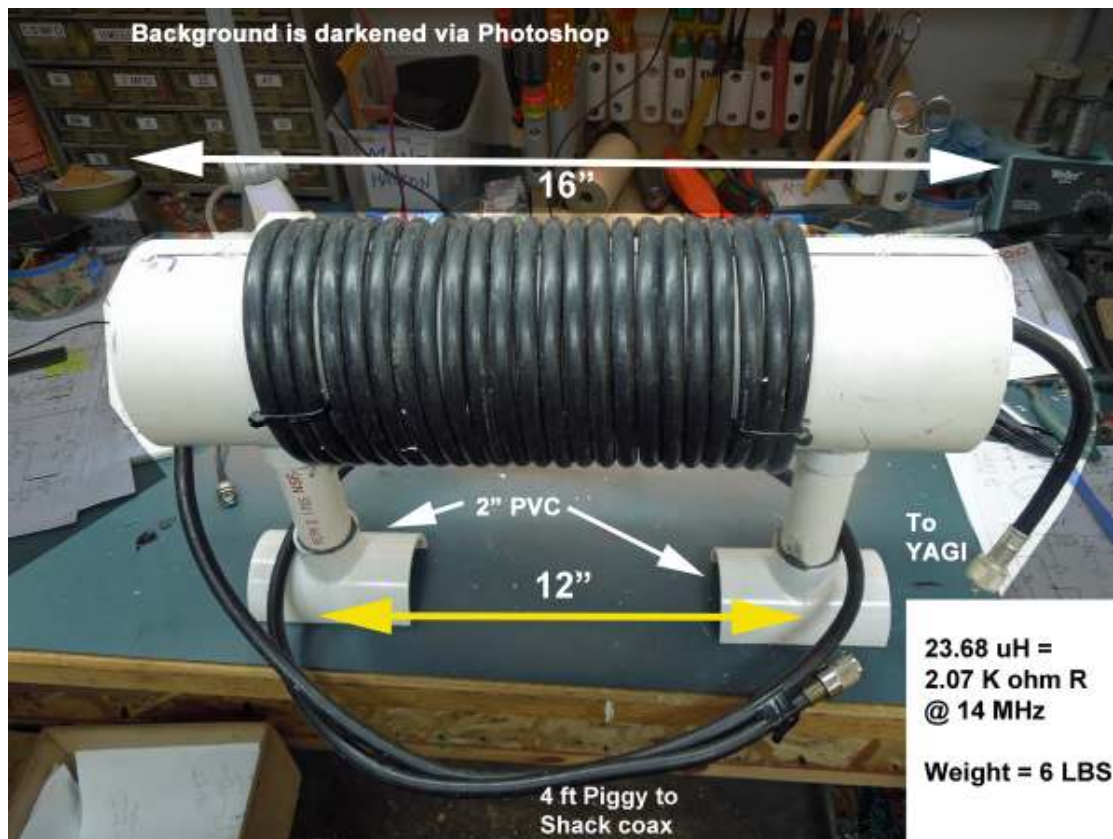


In the photo above, you can see the feed line to the antenna, and the platform to which the rotor is attached.

To the right, Rich KR7W descends after tying off the beam and lowering the rotor assembly to the support



While atop the tower, among other things Rich observed the lack of an adequate balun at the antenna's feed point. Could this be one of the reasons for the noise problem on some of the HF Bands? He undertook to build a new balun while the rotor condition was being looked at.



Meanwhile, Bruce WE7P took the lead in troubleshooting the hardware failure. At first it looked like a simple 'home repair' job - replacing a potentiometer and the main ring gear. Parts were ordered.

When Bruce started a complete tear down, he noticed that not only was the rotation gear in bad shape, but the output shaft and casting were bent and distorted.

With guidance from Harry N7DOE, contact was made with the rotor expert Bob W7BA up in Kent, WA.

Soon the broken rotor and the repair parts were shipped up north.

Bob was able to repair the rotor, realign the shaft, and reshape the housing. The parts Bruce ordered worked and were utilized.

A few weeks ago the rotor was returned and ready for re-installation. Cost to the club was less than \$200, about a third the price of a new rotor. And Rich had completed building the new balun. All we needed was a nice dry, calm day and a crew to reinstall it on the tower.



Finally, a day arrived with no breezes blowing and no rain falling. A few willing souls were located, and Rich scaled the tower again.

It went together in fine shape. The new balun was installed, lines were reconnected, and everything was checked and double-checked. No longer is the noise level so irksome, and the electrostatic discharges in the HF room have ceased.



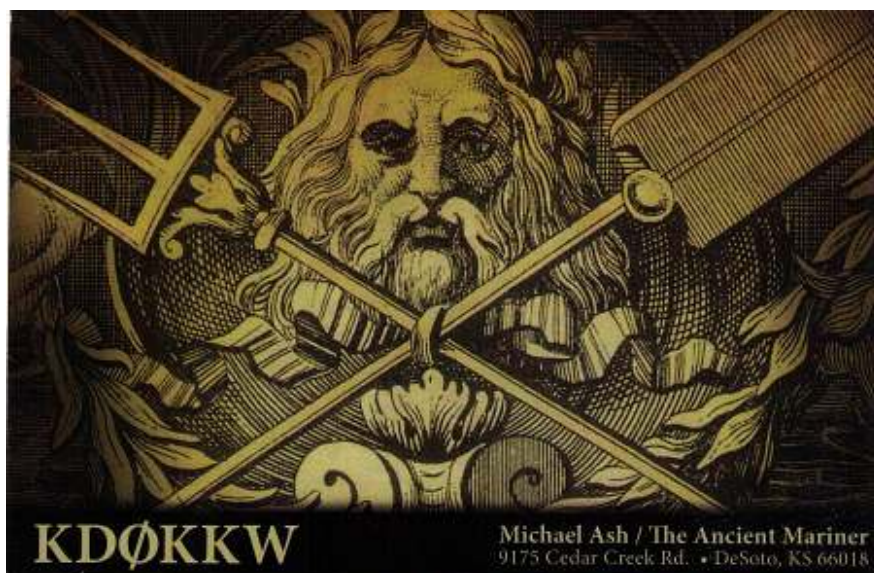
A big "Hat's Off" to the crew that helped put W7DK back on the air better than ever





In this issue of The Bark I'm going to attempt to dispel the rumor that I only eat donuts, drink coffee in the museum, mow the lawn occasionally, and generally take up space in the club house. Yep, once in a while I actually get on the air and make contacts. To prove it, here is a QSL card from my own meager collection.

All club members are invited and encouraged to contribute cards, photos, stories, opinions, observations, or other tidbits for publication in The Bark. Either email them to me as a .jpg file, or bring them by the clubhouse on a Saturday and I'll scan them. For textual contributions, MSWord, PDF, RTF or plain text files are suitable.



**KDØKKW** → AKA N21W3

Confirming QSO with: W7MWF

Day: 17 Month: MAY Year: 2013

UTC: 0431-0435Z MHz: 7.055

RST: 599 Mode: CW

Transceiver: KENWOOD TS-2000

Antenna: 130TPOV, 20 FT VERTICAL

Remarks: HI MIKE, SORRY FOR THE DELAY IN GETTING MY QSL CARD TO YOU. I ENJOYED OUR QSO AND WANT TO WISH YOU A HAPPY 30TH. TAKE CARE AND HAVE A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS. MAY GOD BLESS.  
BEST REGARDS, MIKE ASH

73, Mike, May your future QSO's be free of QRM, QRN and QSB.  
 PSE QSE ☒ TNX ☒  
 Johnson County mash4@kc.rr.com Grid: EM28

#15308  
 SK CC  
 Straight Key Century Club  
 #7039  
 #4782





*The Radio Club of Tacoma's*  
**Logger's Bark**



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### Club Officers

President: Gary McAdams WG7X 253-984-0868 email to [wg7x @ w7dk.org](mailto:wg7x@w7dk.org)

Vice Pres: Mike Mikuchonis email to [w7xtz @ w7dk.org](mailto:w7xtz@w7dk.org)

Secretary: Larry Watson KD4VOM email to [kd4vom @ w7dk.org](mailto:kd4vom@w7dk.org)

Treasurer: Bob Purdom AD7LJ email to [ad7lj @ w7dk.org](mailto:ad7lj@w7dk.org)

### 5 Board Members (listed in no particular order)

James Mendenhall KE6WHN email to [ke6whn @ w7dk.org](mailto:ke6whn@w7dk.org)

Nick Winter K7MO email to [k7mo @ w7dk.org](mailto:k7mo@w7dk.org)

Bruce Hanson WE7P email to [we7p @ w7dk.org](mailto:we7p@w7dk.org)

Mike Elwell W7GHW email to [w7ghw@w7dk.org](mailto:w7ghw@w7dk.org)

Mike Finnie W7MWF email to [w7mwf@w7dk.org](mailto:w7mwf@w7dk.org)

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**Membership Info:** FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is \$30 per calendar year. \$25 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay \$15 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Fulltime students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are \$15 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

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### *Radio Club Repeaters*

**Central Tacoma:** 147.280 + PL=103.5

**Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County):** 147.380 + PL=103.5

**Central Tacoma:** 440.625 + PL=103.5

**North Tacoma:** 145.21 – PL=141.3

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**Remember - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website [w7dk.org](http://w7dk.org). Be sure to enroll as a member to see all the info.**

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***The Loggers Bark***  
**Radio Club of Tacoma**  
**PO Box 11188**  
**Tacoma, WA 98411**

**To RCT Member:**



## Upcoming RCT Events

**Club Meetings:** Second Wednesday of the month at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

**Workshops:** Fourth Wednesday of the month at the Clubhouse, 1249 So. Washington St, Tacoma. A variety of training and educational events will be conducted.

**Board Meeting:** First Wednesday of the month at the RCT clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend .

**Bark Deadline:** Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

**Check into the weekly two meter net:** Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz

**Check into the weekly 10 meter net:** Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz .